

## THE CATHOLIC HERALD.

The New York *Catholic Herald* is an exceeding "live" paper. It champions Dr. McGlynn, pitches into Mr. Blaine for not keeping out of the "modern Babylon" while "Victoria's Jubilee was going on," and has a column and more of invitation to Canada to be annexed, mingled with the most energetic threats of what may happen to her if she doesn't see it. This is the beginning of it, and the continuation is like unto it:—

"This is about the proper time to issue words of warning to the Sir Johns and Sir Tappers who are sending forth their puiasant admirals, Scott and Quigley, conquerors of fishing schooners—on their mission of annoyance, and who look to England for countenance and assistance, if necessary. Let those officials be not mistaken. The American eagle is not asleep; he is only in that stato of repose given by the consciousness of his strength and a just cause, and will extend his wings at the right moment."

We are told—"Alas! what consolation would it be to you if, while England were bombarding New York and Baltimore, American armies were overrunning Canada, whose whole force it took to vanquish Gabriel Dumont and his band of half-armed savages."

Truth is unacceptable to spread-eagleism, but the frequent ignorance of some American journals renders it possible that the *Catholic Herald* may really believe what it says, and may not know that the whole force employed in the North-West in 1885, not only to operate against Dumont, but to keep in check the Indians over a vast territory, was under 5,000, General Middleton's own fighting strength at Batoche being only 775. But the United States are so eminently and completely successful in their Indian administration, that an American journal could not, of course, be supposed to imagine that the red man could even possibly be troublesome to us. We are perhaps, however, to blame in affronting American journalism by classing with it such a sheet as the *Catholic Herald*, to which the fact that a few Canadian gentlemen have been the recipients of Imperial honors, seems to act like a red rag to a bull, and to provoke very unpleasant roarings, pawing of the earth, and foaming at the mouth.

Vehement propagandism, ignorance and vulgarity generally form an intimate amalgam; and reason, decency and good-breeding have no appeal to them. You cannot appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober, when Philip is never sober—always "the same old drunk."

We ventured last week to hint at the soundness of the old common-sense piece of advice to people to "mind their own business;" we may now recall the old proverb, "threatened folks live long." But the annexationists and Monroe doctrinists are too rabid to pause and think whether their views might not be made more palatable by a tone of conciliation than by ill-disguised bullying.

## ONE COLLEGE FOR NOVA SCOTIA.

The closing for the holidays of the last of our Nova Scotian colleges, suggests many thoughts concerning their present condition and their future prospects. The much-debated question of college consolidation naturally forces itself upon our attention. It may well be doubted whether any amount of sound argument could lead to an immediate adoption of the principle of University confederation. And yet no thoughtful person can close his eyes to the fact that multiplicity of small colleges is the bane of higher education in this province. The meagre resources of most of these institutions precludes the possibility of their ever having anything more than the equipment of secondary schools. And yet they go on from year to year, congratulating themselves on any trifling addition to their revenue; pointing triumphantly to a slightly increased graduating list; gathering small crumbs of comfort from a comparison with other little institutions, whose pulse is as feeble as their own; hoping that some day a sudden accession of wealth will place them a neck ahead of their neighbors.

But, granting the addition of this hoped-for money, will money make them real, grown-up universities? There is in this province, with its four hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants, the material for only one university worthy of the name. By material we mean, above all things, students. Some people appear to think that the existence of efficient instruction and complete apparatus will give to a hundred students the advantages of a university course. No greater mistake could be made. The broadening, strengthening, correcting influence of real university life as it exists at the great seats of learning, cannot be enjoyed by a small number of students, especially if their vision is bounded by the social and intellectual horizon of a small community.

Two causes, it seems to us, have militated against the union of our struggling little colleges into one great provincial university—an institution to which Nova Scotians could point with pride and thankfulness—an institution which would send out men and scholars. One of these is sectarian prejudice. Now what can it be claimed that the tenets of any sect have to do with a liberal education? Is there a Presbyterian solution of the 47th proposition, an Episcopalian interpretation of Sophocles, a Baptist resolution of forces, a Methodist use for the binomial theorem? But perhaps there is a secret fear that free intercourse among students of different denominations will rub off the angularities of sectarian habits of thought and sentiment. Then we say by all that is liberal and human, let the students have such intercourse. We have met very few men who could not spare a little of their sectarianism.

The second cause of opposition to college consolidation may be called near-sightedness. People do not see past the nearest college. If they observed closely the movements of educational activity abroad, they would have clearer ideas as to the difference between a university and a school. Without looking beyond the borders of Canada herself, they would see Toronto University, an institution which the other day, after the usual

searching examination, conferred the degree of B. A. upon no fewer than 78 candidates. At the same time 79 passed the third year examination in Arts, 85 the second year, and 126 the first year; and now there are about 300 writing at the matriculation examination. That the non-sectarian character of that college is no promoter of irreligion is amply testified by the fact that the students' Y. M. C. A. has a membership of over two hundred, and a handsome building of their own.

Is it not time to awake to a sense of our great educational need, and a strong, liberal resolution to create one real university in Nova Scotia? So long as this petty inter-collegiate jealousy keeps alive (we mean in existence) four institutions where there is barely room for one, so long must our whole educational system feel the want of a head, and our ambitious students seek abroad the advantages which they cannot get at home.

## HOW TO ABSORB THE UNITED STATES SURPLUS.

While most of the great nations of the world are exercising all their ingenuity to secure the means to meet their financial obligations, the government of the United States is anxious to know what to do with its rapidly accumulating surplus. The enormous war debt has been so reduced that on June 1st it was down to thirteen hundred million, after deducting the cash in the treasury at that date. Only eleven hundred millions of this sum bears interest, and the reduction, by the redemption of outstanding securities, of this remaining debt, is now impossible until the securities mature. The surplus revenues for the next fiscal year from present indications will not be less than one hundred millions of dollars, and after July first there will be no means of getting rid of this accumulation. The anticipation of interest would still leave a surplus of sixty millions, and objections would be likely to be made to the government going into the market and purchasing bonds. The decrease of the debt for eleven months of the fiscal year was \$93,000,000, and as no further reduction, at present, is possible, the question naturally arises as to what is to be done with this surplus. It is a matter that Congress will have to deal with at its coming session; and in the meantime the Secretary of the Treasury states that his sole concern is to preserve the equilibrium of the nation's finances, so that the business and industrial interests of the country shall not be disturbed until measures of relief are adopted."

The United States Congress has, in this surplus, a most serious question to deal with, one affecting the whole people; and whatever measures are adopted, must look well to the future. There is a demand for the greatest wisdom and financial ability, and whether Congress will be able to successfully meet the issue, is the burning question with our neighbors at the present moment. It will prove an important issue in the coming struggle for the Presidency, and the leaders of both the great political parties are even now preparing to outgeneral each other by introducing remedies in Congress that will meet the popular approval. It is most fortunate for the country, at the present juncture, that the President is a determined, prudent, and the roughly honest man. A man, who, from the first, has stuck to his motto that his office was "a public trust," and who has unflinchingly acted up to his duty, regardless whether his actions advanced the interests of his political party or not. He has vetoed all bills that had the slightest tinge of attempted raids on the surplus in the treasury, (notably the arrears of pensions' bill), and Congress, knowing what they have to expect from him, will now hardly attempt to pass any but beneficial measures. A surplus seems a dangerous thing for a government to have to deal with. Ultra patriotic Congressmen and Senators who believe in "the old flag and an appropriation," would, if they could, secure the passage of their pet schemes, which would rapidly transfer the surplus from the treasury to the pockets of their friends and selves. Give them full swing, and the surplus question would soon be settled to their entire satisfaction. Various plans have been proposed to reduce the surplus, and one of the most feasible and necessary emanated from the Hon. Saml. Tilden, the noted democratic leader, who was so shamefully defrauded out of the Presidency. Almost the last public letter that he wrote was an appeal to his countrymen to place the coast line of the country in a state of perfect defence. He also showed the necessity for a formidable navy, and urged that the surplus revenues could not be used to better advantage than in placing the country in such a state of defence that foreign powers would have no temptation to declare war. He wisely saw that the surest means of securing the blessings of peace was to be thoroughly prepared for war. His advice has had much weight, and Congress will likely vote large sums for these purposes; but even this will not prove an adequate remedy for the rapidly increasing surplus. It is further proposed to divide the surplus amongst the several States in the Union; to loan the money to the banks; to spend millions in river and harbor improvements, and in innumerable other ways; but still the surplus will not be downed, and no effectual remedy has yet been proposed. We think we know of a sure remedy to wipe out this surplus, and one that will doubtless commend itself to our neighbors, while it will at the same time gratify the longings and strivings of a very prominent man.

The Hon. James G. Blaine has just landed in England, bent it is said, on a crusade in Ireland, with the express object of capturing the Irish vote in the United States. It has been hinted that if he could contrive to get himself arrested in Ireland for making incendiary speeches, his chances of the Presidency in the next election would be assured; and if our neighbors should elect Mr. Blaine, it is probable that they would not find themselves long troubled with a surplus.

Lord Lorne was thrown from his horse on Constitution Hill, while attending the Queen on her way to the Abbey. The Marquis was not injured.